

Girls' and Women's Education Project
Quarterly Report
July 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002

Prepared for:

Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade's/Office of
Women in Development
United States Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C.

Prepared by:

DevTech Systems, Inc.
Contract # LAG-C-00-97-00017-00

NARRATIVE

TITLE

Technical and Administrative Services to the Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade's (EGAT/WID's) Office of Women in Development to Support the Girls' and Women's Education Activity Objectives. (WID-GWE) LAG- C-00-97-00017

1. Background

A five-year contract to carry out this assistance was awarded to DevTech Systems, Inc. on September 30, 1997. The objectives of the contract are to support EGAT/WID in: 1) monitoring the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative; 2) developing effective communications among all stakeholders in the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative; and 3) documenting programs and products concerning the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative. This contract calls for the execution of core activities and not buy-in or subcontractor activities.

2. Expected Results

The restructuring within what used to be the Global Bureau of USAID placed the implementation of the Girls' and Women's Education (GWE) Initiative in the Office of Women in Development. One result of this restructuring is the requirement for technical and administrative assistance from a contractor to support EGAT/WID's attainment of the goals and objectives of this Initiative. Implementation of the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative is conducted in both emphasis and cooperating countries by contractors under separate procurements. The purpose of this contract is to provide assistance to EGAT/WID to ensure that the goals of the GWE Initiative, as reflected by SSO2 (Broad-based, informed constituents mobilized to improve girls' education in emphasis countries) and its IRs and indicators, are attained.

3. Project Core Activities

The Project Core Activities for the third quarter (July-September) FY02 quarter are divided into the following three parts:

A. Activity Narrative and Task Report

The Activity Narrative and the Task Report contain both a discussion and a recounting of all the events covered during the reporting period (including events already detailed in the monthly reports for the same period). The Task Report is divided into eight general contract tasks: 1) monitor GWE Initiative; 2) develop effective communications with GWE constituencies; 3) plan and coordinate a range of GWE focused meetings and events; 4) provide technical and administrative assistance to Missions; 5) develop, or assist in, writing reports, studies, and concept papers, and develop innovative ideas; 6) coordinate development, review, revision, and dissemination as appropriate of GWE focused documents, publications, and deliverables; 7) coordinate monitoring and evaluation activities for GWE; and 8) develop and maintain reference materials on the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative.

B. Project Management - A report on what activities were accomplished to fulfill contractual responsibilities.

Section II: Administrative Report

C. Implementation Constraints – A report of constraints that prevented the fulfillment of specific contractual responsibilities.

A.1. Quarterly Narrative

DevTech has been engaged in normal communication and monitoring activities (which are not reflected in the chart below but can be found in the monthly activity reports), from reviewing and processing terms of reference and country clearances, interacting with Missions, sharing data and requesting information on girls' education, to constructively participating in meetings and responding to requests from EGAT/WID. Specifically, DevTech provided analysis and feedback on the final drafts of the Nepal and Bolivia reports that World Education presented to the WID office. DevTech has also arranged for a dissemination report meeting for World Education to be held at USAID on November 18, 2002. DevTech also hosted the final Project Directors' Meeting in July 2002. Project Directors from the Strategies for Girls' Education Activity (SAGE), Girls' Education Monitoring Activity (GEMS), Equity in the Classroom (EIC) and DevTech were present to update the attendees on final and on-going activities.

DevTech continues to organize the development of a library of GWE products and documents. During this quarter, an interim project associate was hired to work full time assisting the WID office in categorizing and filing GWE papers for future reference. Reference lists were developed for reports, publications and lists.

DevTech went through a search process to hire a new Project Associate. Nora Kruk was selected from among 50 applicants. Ms. Kruk formerly held the position for the Strategies for Girls' Education (SAGE) before the project closed on July 31, 2002.

A.2. WID-GWE Provided Technical and Administrative Assistance to EGAT/WID in:

General Contract Tasks	Specific Tasks Completed (Selected)
1. Monitor GWE Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed World Education's final Draft Report for Bolivia and provided substantive comments and edits. Comments from DevTech and WID (Anne Dykstra and Ed Lijewski) were sent to World Education for incorporating into the final document. The report summarizes the results of a three-year longitudinal study of the impact of literacy and basic education programs in Bolivia. Out of several key indicators, women's participation in family planning decisions increased the most as a result of involvement in literacy and basic education programs.• Reviewed Equity in the Classroom's (EIC) Quarterly Report for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2002. The report highlighted the progress of new EIC activities in El Salvador and a request for a no-cost extension. The EIC Quarterly Report also contains a section on "Lessons Learned" and is expanding this section.• Provided feedback on World Education's second Draft Report for Nepal. Technical and editorial comments from DevTech were submitted electronically to World Education along with comments from WID (Ed Lijewski).

Section II: Administrative Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed GEMS Performance Review “USAID Girls’ Education Initiatives in Guatemala, Guinea, Mali, Morocco and Peru: A Performance Review” and provided feedback to Juárez and Associates.
<p>2. Develop Effective Communications with GWE Constituencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulated an announcement to GWE colleagues to support former Afghani Women’s Affairs Minister, Dr. Sima Samar, who was asked to leave her position in the interim government of Afghanistan. Circulated the Federation of African Teachers’ (FAWE) conference proceedings focusing on girls’ education, held in Nairobi, Kenya, July 5-8, 2002. Circulated information to GWE colleagues on how to support the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The information included ways to communicate support to senators, representatives and the White House. Circulated an editorial written by Boston Globe Columnist, Ellen Goodman, stating her reasons for supporting CEDAW. Circulated information about the Nigerian Women who took over the Chevron Oil Refinery and demanded jobs, schools, and more financial support for their area. Circulated information on the U.N. Development Program’s (UNDP) report on the political, social and economic conditions in the 22 countries that make up the Arab League. Attention was drawn to the section on gender inequality that predominates in the Arab Nations even though <i>de jure</i> acceptance of democracy and human rights is clearly stated in their constitutions and legal codes. Circulated information about a free on-line course in Spanish and English. EngenderHealth has developed Web-based and CD-ROM self-instructional courses for health care providers, supervisors, students, and trainers around the world—particularly for those in low-resource settings. Each self-instructional course is divided into different modules, each of which includes interactive exercises and quizzes, case studies, as well as educational materials that can be printed for use in health-care programs. Responded to request from Enersol Associates, Inc. a non-profit organization in Chelsford, MA that focuses on solar-based rural electrification in the Dominican Republic and Honduras. Their query wanted to investigate how gender would impact their development projects and how a gender focus would help include women. DevTech replied by sending several web links along with information linking resources with gender in that men and women use resources differently, therefore, how resources are

Section II: Administrative Report

	<p>used by women and men has to be researched.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulated web link on the history of girls' education in the United States. • Circulated web link to the latest publication from the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). The 134-page report describes the current status of girls' education since the Jomtien declaration and proposes a baseline for assessing future progress towards the goals set at the World Education Forum (Dakar, 2000). Two statistical appendices complement the Report. They focus on indicators' tables with measures of gender disparities and individual country profiles with key data for the countries singled out by UNGEI as needing special attention. • Forwarded email dialogue between Executive Director of Enersol Associates, Inc. and Senior Policy and Planning Specialist of GWE Project to the Director of Renewable Energy Programs at USAID, Patricia Flanagan. Enersol wanted to investigate how gender would impact their development projects and how a gender focus would help include women. Ms. Flanagan responded to the email and asked for more information about Enersol's funding. DevTech followed up on her request. • Circulated web link to the Forum Program for the Association for Women in Development (AWID) Conference, October 3-6. • Circulated web link and discussion forum developed by UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) on "Gender Aspects of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development." • Circulated web link announcing WIDE (Women in Development) discussion forum on the debate to hold the fifth UN Conference on Women in 2005. • Circulated web link to a gender toolkit, "Mainstreaming Gender in Education: A Toolkit for Gender Responsive Education Management in Sub-Saharan Africa" developed by the Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development in Kenya. This generated interest from USAID Mali Mission. • Circulated remarks made by Kofi Annan at the UN Summit on New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), September 16. He called for a war on AIDS and a focus on girls' education in Africa.
<p>3. Plan and Coordinate a Range of GWE Focused Meetings and Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted the last Project Directors' Meeting that was held at DevTech in Rosslyn, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to give the directors an opportunity to synthesize their projects, present mini-lessons learned, update us on completed activities since the last meeting held in September 2001 and discuss final activities. Project Directors from the Strategies for Girls' Education (SAGE), Girls' Education Monitoring Activity (GEMS), Equity in

Section II: Administrative Report

	<p>the Classroom (EIC) and DevTech were present. The Project Director from World Education (GWE-PRA) was ill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DevTech attended the Society for International Development/ Women in Development (SID/WID) Workgroup to discuss and share programming ideas for the coming year and assessed the workgroup's progress to date. DevTech was asked by SID/WID co-coordinator, John Hatch to set the Fall Speaker Schedule with which DevTech complied. • DevTech hosted a SID/WID presentation by Dr. Lem Truong , President of L.T. Associates on September 10. The presentation was on the role of gender in public administration reform. • Coordinated a time for a presentation by World Education on the findings from their girls' education and women's literacy research studies. A preliminary invitation was sent out to GWE and USAID persons. The presentation is scheduled for November 18, 2002. • Attended a meeting with Holly Wise, Director of the Global Development Alliance (GDA), hosted by InterAction on September 18. She discussed the progress and future plans of the GDA with representatives of the NGO community. • Attended a SID/WID presentation at World Learning by Dr. Greg Loos, USAID EGAT/HCD, on September 23. He presented the latest thinking by USAID on the application of a "stages-of-change" theory to sector strategy in education. The draft model is being proposed for application to future USAID education programs.
<p>4. Provide Technical and Administrative Assistance to Missions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed SOWs and processed the following country clearances: Giselle Mitton (SAGE) to Guinea; Wendy Rimer and Sheila Mogrovejo (Equity in the Classroom) to El Salvador. • Reviewed SOWs and processed the following country clearances: Shirley Burchfield, Haiyan Hua and Valeria Rocha's trip to Bolivia (Aug 17-Aug 24). • DevTech sent photos to USAID/Ghana Mission to distribute to SAGE community trainers from the SAGE Lessons Learned Conference held in May 2002. • Reviewed SOWs and processed the following country clearances: Ray Chesterfield, Kjell Enge, Bruce Newman's trip to the Philippines (September 22 – October 5), Shirley Burchfield and Valeria Rocha's trip to Nepal (September 23 – October 5), and Wendy Rimer's trip to El Salvador (October 9-20).

Section II: Administrative Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answered request from USAID Mali Mission for list of girls' education tools for dissemination in French. • Responded to request on behalf of Institute for International Education (IIE) and USAID Bangladesh Mission to meet with newly-appointed IWID fellow, Jeanne Harvey, to discuss her role as a fellow in the Mission Front Office.
5. Develop, or Assist in, Writing Reports, Studies, and Concept Papers, and Develop Innovative Ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended The Society for International Development –Washington Chapter Event – which featured a presentation by Dr. Sharif Faez, Minister for Higher Education in Afghanistan. This event was held on July 15, from 12:30 to 2 pm at Academy Hall, AED (co-sponsor of the event) in Washington, DC. Dr. Faez described the current situation of higher education in Afghanistan, and discussed what is needed to generate progress in higher education in the post-Taliban era. DevTech submitted a report on the talk to EGAT/WID. • Introduced new technique for giving technical and editorial feedback to GWE report using Microsoft Word. Made electronic changes to World Education's second Draft Report for Nepal instead of using old format of writing out page number and edit. This facilitates ease in correcting and incorporating comments for GWE contractor.
6. Coordinate Monitoring and Evaluation Activities for GWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted Strategies for Girls' Education (SAGE) Activity with their closeout that took place on July 31, 2002 by responding to questions and mediating between the Academy for Education Development and the WID office when necessary.
7. Develop and Maintain Reference Materials on Girls' and Women's Education Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued the process of strategizing and implementing the revision, categorization, organization and development of a library of GWE products and documents; DevTech hired a part time librarian to document, organize and create the GWE library in the WID office. • The interim Project Associate worked closely with WID staff members on developing a system for organizing and cataloguing the GWE files. New contract files for all GWE contractors were created based on specifications provided by WID. Old files were compiled, organized and filed into the appropriate contract file. A reference list for relevant GWE reports, publications, and books was completed and submitted to the Senior Policy and Planning

Section II: Administrative Report

	<p>Specialist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Associate organized and cleaned out the GWE files housed at DevTech Systems. The GWE files, including contractor deliverables, publications and trip reports, will be incorporated into the existing GWE files at USAID WID Office at a later date. The Project Associate will continue organizing GWE files at USAID WID Office to ensure there is no duplicate or missing materials.• On going activity
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B. Project Management

General Contract Tasks	Specific Tasks Completed
8. Contract Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitted DevTech's monthly report for June 2002.• Submitted DevTech's quarterly report for 3rd QTR FY02.• Finalized the interviewing process for Project Associate Replacement by developing a short list of candidates (from 70 resumes) and arranged for interviews; hired an interim Project Associate and Project Associate to begin in August 2002.• Submitted DevTech's monthly report for July 2002.• The interim Project Associate stopped work on August 12 and gave a debriefing to the Senior Policy and Planning Specialist and the new Project Associate on the work she completed on the GWE library. The new Project Associate started on August 12 and was given an orientation at USAID and DevTech by the Senior Policy and Planning Specialist. Paperwork for her USAID security badge was submitted to the WID office. She will attend training for the security badge in September 2002• Submitted DevTech's monthly report for August 2002.• The new Project Associate attended training for the USAID security badge and received her badge.

C. Implementation Constraints

While the EGAT/WID team is still incomplete in that the CTO position is vacant, DevTech and GWE contractors continue to work through the acting CTOs. DevTech's acting CTO, Julia Escalona was replaced with Mr. Edward Lijewski in August 2002. In spite of this, the contractors and EGAT/WID staff are working hard to facilitate all activities that need attention in a smooth and efficient manner.

Performance

Despite the above constraints, the DevTech team continues to aid in facilitating EGAT/WID program management of contractors and communication with EGAT/WID-assisted missions. DevTech provides technical assistance by responding in a academic and practical fashion, applying theory to praxis, to papers, projects and drafts. The DevTech team is making an attempt to remain current in the field of girls' and women's education.